

MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD ARMORIES THEMATIC GROUP

BA-1438

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

 historic Towson Academy

 and/or common National Guard Armory
2. Location

 street & number Washington Street and Chesapeake Avenue N/A not for publication

 city, town Towson N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

 state Maryland code 24 county Baltimore code 005
3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u>X</u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u>X</u> military
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property

 name State of Maryland Military Department CONTACT: Col. Raymond Clift
728-3388 x244

 street & number 231 West Hoffman Street

 city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21201
5. Location of Legal Description

 courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

street & number

 city, town Towson state Maryland 21204
6. Representation in Existing Surveys

 title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

 date 1980 federal X state county local

 depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

 city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD ARMORIES THEMATIC GROUP

BA-1438

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Towson Academy is a two story brick structure with full basement, faced with a smooth light-colored, marble-like stone veneer. Almost completely devoid of ornamentation, the armory presents a severe appearance on its front (Washington Street) facade, which faces west. Oriented to the west, the front facade reads from south to north corners as follows:

The first floor and basement form a section of seven 2/6 casement windows at first floor level. The southern half of the 14-bay drill hall is visible above the first floor section, its bays punctuated by 2/6 casement windows. The roof over the drill hall is a low-pitched gable.

The center block is a simple screen, containing a shallow entry hall in front of the drill hall. Four narrow 2/3 casement windows at first and second floor levels of the center block flank a high arch over wide double doors. The interior wall of the arch is plastered and painted. Four cement steps lead to a cement slab porch before the doorway. Four short pillars of the same stone as the facade veneer flank the steps, each topped with a trumpet shaped ornament of black metal. Iron railings connect the pillars and surround the porch. The front yard contains a flagpole and is pleasantly landscaped with shrubs and grass.

The building is symmetrical and identical on both sides of the center block.

The north (Chesapeake Avenue) facade features four windows (2/6 casement) in one story sections which flank the two-story entrance to the drill hall. The entry projects substantially from the side sections with double doors recessed slightly and surmounted by a large fanlight. A brief flight of cement steps with walls faced with veneer matching the facade lead to the street. At the extreme northeast corner is a driving ramp at ground level leading into a wide garage door.

The south facade, facing onto an alley, has 11 2/6 casement windows on the first floor. The drill hall wall above presents a blank face.

The rear of the building has been altered considerably with two story additions faced with an unmatched stone veneer.

8. Significance

MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD ARMORIES THEMATIC GROUP

BA-1438

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1946	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1933

Builder/Architect

unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C

Applicable Exceptions: none

Significance Evaluated: state

The Towson, Maryland Academy is primarily significant for its association with the reorganization and expansion of the National Guard system in the twentieth century. It derives additional significance from its role as a social center for its community, a function it has served continuously since its construction date. Architecturally, the building embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type, including a T shaped plan with a two story front "head house" section and a one-story perpendicular "drill hall" extending to the rear; its facade is detailed to recall Medieval fortifications, with towers flanking the central entrance and strip buttresses.

Built in 1933 at a cost of \$75,000, the Towson Academy is among the last of the group of armories built in Maryland. It occupies the former site of the Smedley House, a hotel made popular as a summer rendezvous by fashionable Baltimore families around the turn of the century. The post-war building boom which radically changed the character of downtown Towson has caused a shift in scale favoring high-rise office tower development. The Towson Academy, together with the police station opposite (across Washington Street) and the courthouse diagonally opposite on the northwest corner of Washington Street and Chesapeake Avenue, contribute to the diminished nucleus of older buildings in the center of downtown Towson. The structure's simple sturdy lines blend successfully with the rich mix of building styles in the immediate vicinity.

Severe shortage of vehicle storage areas on the armory site and problems of congestion in Towson area in general have no doubt played some part in the facility's diminished usefulness as an armory. While still in some minimal use by the National Guard, the building is mainly utilized by community groups for meetings, and the drill hall is heavily used by young adults for dancing classes.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Towson Academy

Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number

10

Page 1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

In Baltimore County:

BEGINNING for the same at the corner formed by the intersection of the southernmost side of Chesapeake Avenue with the easternmost side of Washington Avenue running thence binding on the southernmost side of Chesapeake Avenue south twenty-six degrees fifty-three minutes east one hundred and seventy two feet thence parallel to Washington Avenue south Thirteen degrees nineteen minutes west one hundred and fifty-five feet running thence for a line of division north seventy-six degrees fifty three minutes west one hundred and seventy-two feet to the easternmost side of Washington Avenue aforesaid running thence binding on the easternmost side of Washington Avenue north thirteen degrees nineteen minutes east on hundred and fifty-five feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property comprises the total parcel historically associated with the resource.

BA-1438



Towson Armory

BA-1438

TOWSON ACADEMY

BALTIMORE COUNTY

MARYLAND

18-361750-4362100

MARYLAND

NATIONAL GUARD
ARMORIES

THEMATIC GROUP



9. Major Bibliographical References

BA-1438

Land Records of Baltimore County, Liber 913 Folio 175
Vertical files of the Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Free Library ~~Baltimore~~

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.600 acreQuadrangle name Towson, MDQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8
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3	6	1	7	5	1	0
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4	3	6	1	2	1	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susanne Moore, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Maryland Historical Trustdate July 1980; revised 7/85street & number 21 State Circletelephone (301) 269-2438city or town Annapolisstate Maryland 21401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

8-14-85title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

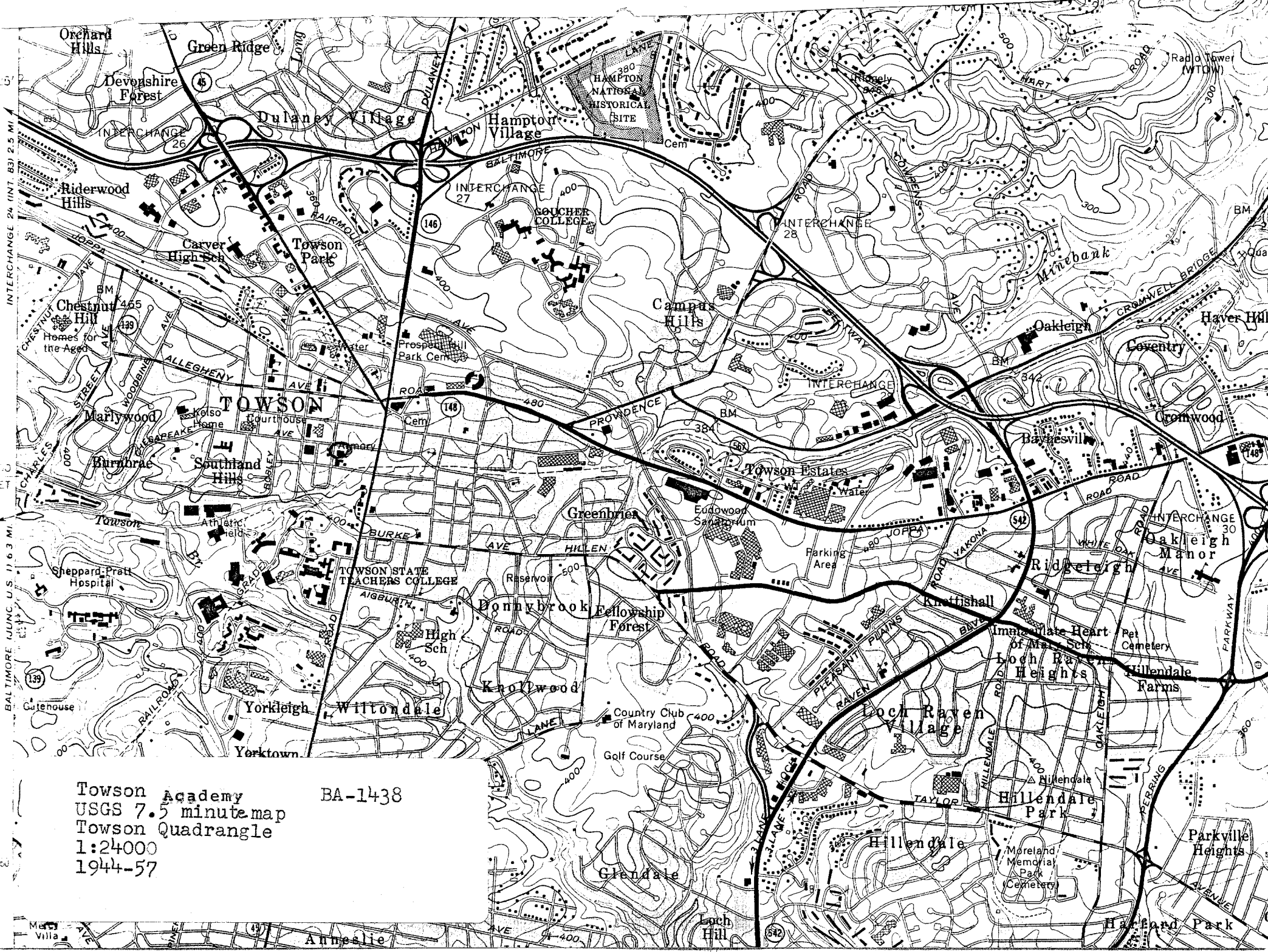
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

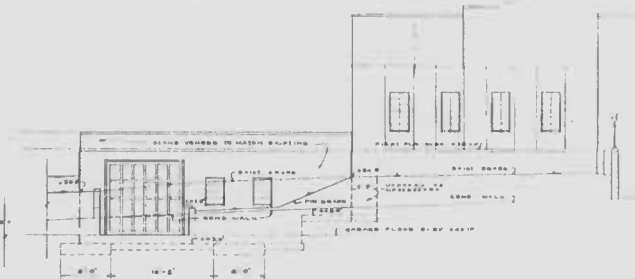
date

Chief of Registration



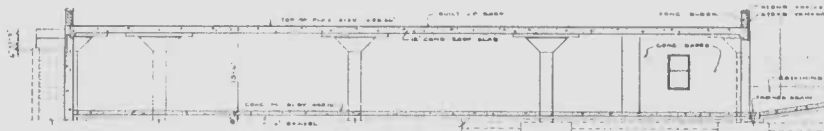
Towson Academy
USGS 7.5 minute map
Towson Quadrangle
1:24000
1944-57

BA-1438

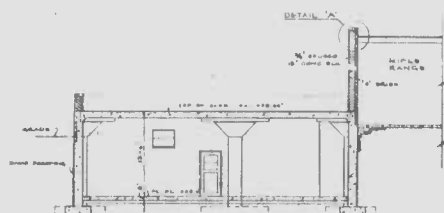


• NORTH ELEVATION

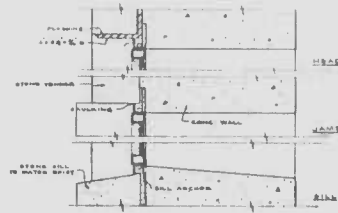
EAST ELEVATION



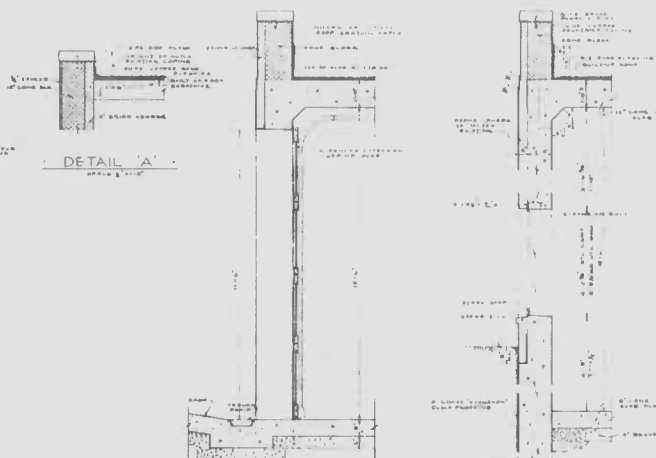
SECTION A-A
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



SECTION B-B
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"



• STEEL SASH DETAIL



• OVERHEAD DOOR SECTION

TYPICAL WALL SECTION

APPROVED: 	STATE OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS APPROVED June 2, 1950 <i>[Signature]</i> <i>[Signature]</i> SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS BUREAU OF ROAD DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SECTION OF TRUCK AND BUS ROUTES ROUTE NO. 1 DISTRICT NO. 1 COUNTY OF BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP OF BALTIMORE CITY OF BALTIMORE STATE OF MARYLAND
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24X

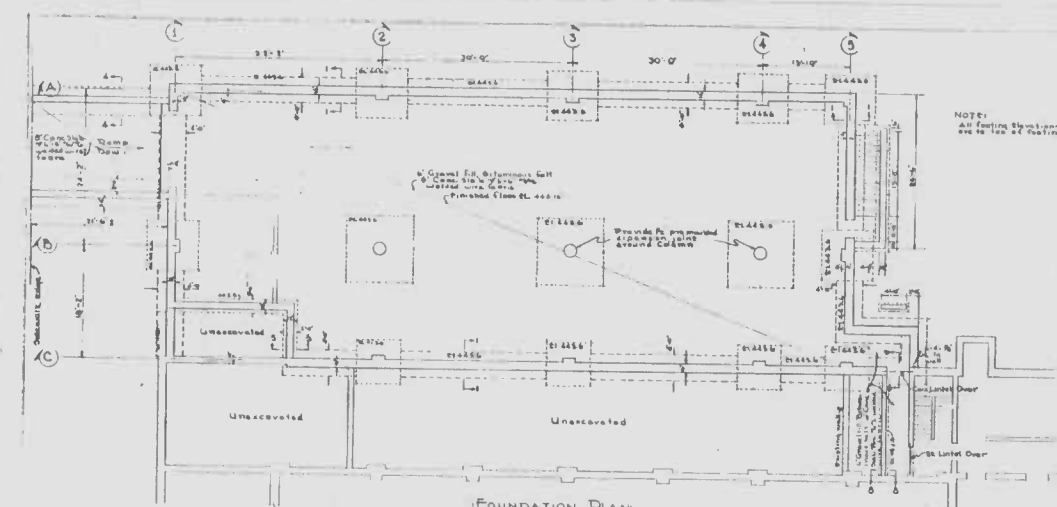
REVISIONS

9-27-00 Revising Eng. from 2111 to 2111B Rev
from 2111 to 2111B Rev
10/1/00 - Off in well indicated on 10/1/00
10/1/00 Addition of 1:16 Pans. Realization

MOTOR VEHICLE STORAGE BLOC
IN REAR OF POWSON ARMOY
PREPARED BY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
STATE OF MARYLAND
DRAWN BY J. H. CHECKED BY M. D.

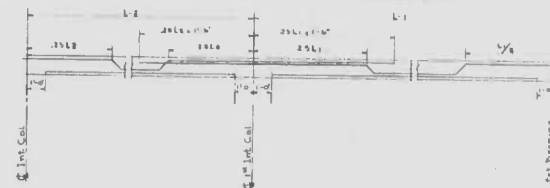
FILE NO. 18 M-105

TOWSON ARMORY BA-1438
Reduction from original on file at Md
Dept. of General Services

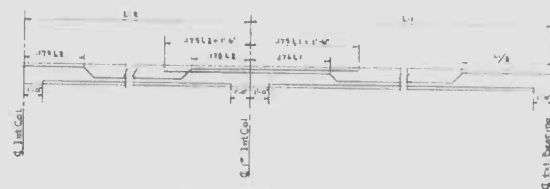


FOUNDATION PLAN
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

NOTE:
1. Slab over Basement 14" thick.
2. Round Capsitals 6" dia.
3. Round Capsitals 8" dia.
4. Round Capsitals 10" dia.
5. Round Capsitals 12" dia.
6. Round Capsitals 14" dia.
7. Round Capsitals 16" dia.
8. Round Capsitals 18" dia.
9. Round Capsitals 20" dia.
10. Round Capsitals 22" dia.
11. Round Capsitals 24" dia.
12. Round Capsitals 26" dia.
13. Round Capsitals 28" dia.
14. Round Capsitals 30" dia.
15. Round Capsitals 32" dia.
16. Round Capsitals 34" dia.
17. Round Capsitals 36" dia.
18. Round Capsitals 38" dia.
19. Round Capsitals 40" dia.
20. Round Capsitals 42" dia.
21. Round Capsitals 44" dia.
22. Round Capsitals 46" dia.
23. Round Capsitals 48" dia.
24. Round Capsitals 50" dia.
25. Round Capsitals 52" dia.
26. Round Capsitals 54" dia.
27. Round Capsitals 56" dia.
28. Round Capsitals 58" dia.
29. Round Capsitals 60" dia.
30. Round Capsitals 62" dia.
31. Round Capsitals 64" dia.
32. Round Capsitals 66" dia.
33. Round Capsitals 68" dia.
34. Round Capsitals 70" dia.
35. Round Capsitals 72" dia.
36. Round Capsitals 74" dia.
37. Round Capsitals 76" dia.
38. Round Capsitals 78" dia.
39. Round Capsitals 80" dia.
40. Round Capsitals 82" dia.
41. Round Capsitals 84" dia.
42. Round Capsitals 86" dia.
43. Round Capsitals 88" dia.
44. Round Capsitals 90" dia.
45. Round Capsitals 92" dia.
46. Round Capsitals 94" dia.
47. Round Capsitals 96" dia.
48. Round Capsitals 98" dia.
49. Round Capsitals 100" dia.



TYPICAL COL STRIP REINF.
No Scale



TYPICAL MIDDLE STRIP REINF.
No Scale

Band	Reinforcing	Width	Reinforcing
N-1	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-2	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-3	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-4	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-5	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-6	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-7	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-8	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-9	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-10	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-11	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-12	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-13	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-14	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-15	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-16	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
N-17	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	10'-0"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.

FOOTING & COLUMN SCHEDULE					
FOOTINGS				COLUMNS	
Location	Fig. Size	Depth	Reinforcing	Size	Reinforcing
At m. A-5	8'-0" x 8'-0"	20"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	24"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
D-1 & D-2	8'-0" x 8'-0"	20"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	24"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
D-3, D-4, D-5	10'-0" x 10'-0"	24"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	24"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.
C-1 thru C-5	7'-0" x 7'-0"	18"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.	24"	10" x 10" @ 12" o.c.

APPROVED
STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
10/1/50

SLAB OVER BASEMENT
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

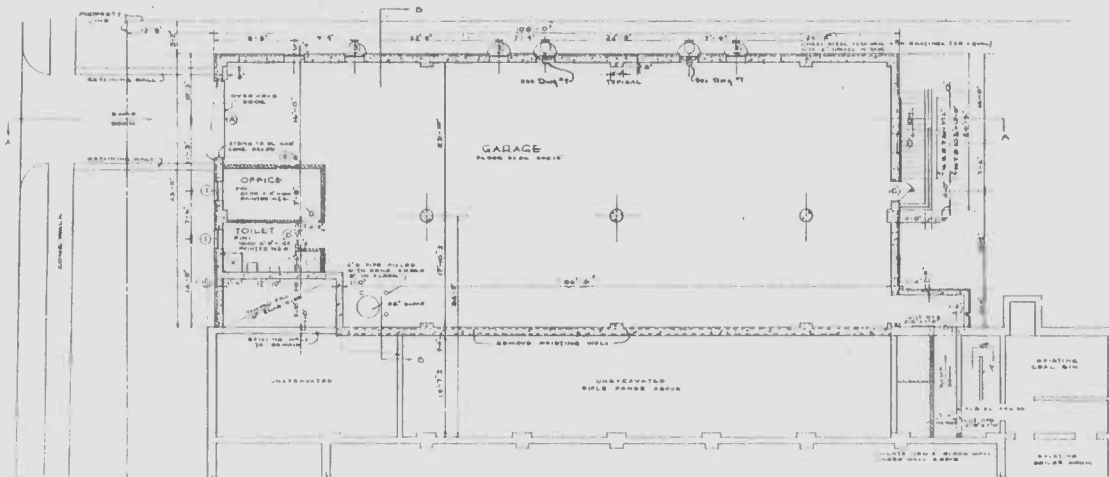
24X

REVISIONS
1. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 20" to 24" depth.
2. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 24" to 28" depth.
3. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 28" to 32" depth.
4. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 32" to 36" depth.
5. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 36" to 40" depth.
6. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 40" to 44" depth.
7. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 44" to 48" depth.
8. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 48" to 52" depth.
9. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 52" to 56" depth.
10. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 56" to 60" depth.
11. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 60" to 64" depth.
12. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 64" to 68" depth.
13. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 68" to 72" depth.
14. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 72" to 76" depth.
15. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 76" to 80" depth.
16. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 80" to 84" depth.
17. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 84" to 88" depth.
18. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 88" to 92" depth.
19. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 92" to 96" depth.
20. 10/1/50 Footing changed from 96" to 100" depth.

STRUCTURAL
MOTOR VEHICLE STORAGE BLDG.
IN REAR OF TOWSON ARMORY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
STATE OF MARYLAND
Drawn BY C. J. R. Checked BY J. A. D.
Date 10/1/50

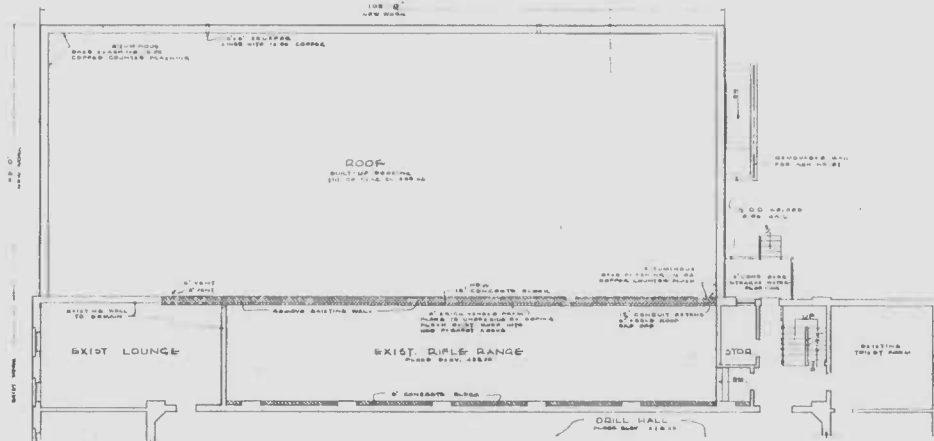
TOWSON ARMORY BA-1438
Reduction from original on file at Md Dept of
General Services

CHESAPEAKE AVE.



BASEMENT PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



ROOF PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

NO.	SIZE	LOC. ON PLAN	TYPE
1	10' x 10'	PLUMB	GLASS DOUBLE HUNG, 10' x 10'
2	10' x 10'	PLUMB	GLASS DOUBLE HUNG, 10' x 10'
3	10' x 10'	PLUMB	GLASS DOUBLE HUNG, 10' x 10'
4	10' x 10'	PLUMB	GLASS DOUBLE HUNG, 10' x 10'
5	10' x 10'	PLUMB	GLASS DOUBLE HUNG, 10' x 10'
6	10' x 10'	PLUMB	GLASS DOUBLE HUNG, 10' x 10'
7	10' x 10'	PLUMB	GLASS DOUBLE HUNG, 10' x 10'
8	10' x 10'	PLUMB	GLASS DOUBLE HUNG, 10' x 10'
9	10' x 10'	PLUMB	GLASS DOUBLE HUNG, 10' x 10'
10	10' x 10'	PLUMB	GLASS DOUBLE HUNG, 10' x 10'

NOTE:
EXIST. ELEVATION OF GARAGE WALL IS
AS SHOWN ON PLANS. NEW WALLS TO BE
AS SHOWN ON PLANS. NEW WALLS TO BE
AS SHOWN ON PLANS.



124X

TOWSON ARMORY BA-1438
Reduction from original on
file at Md Dept of General
Services

APPROVED: _____
STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
APPROVED: _____
DATE: _____

REVISIONS:
BY: _____
DATE: _____
REASON: _____

ARCHITECTURAL
NOTED: _____
DATE: _____
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
STATE OF MARYLAND
DRAWN BY: _____
CHECKED BY: _____

FILE No. 18 M-104

BA-1438

1933

TOWSON ACADEMY

Towson

Public (Restricted)

The Towson Academy is a two story brick structure with full basement faced with a light colored marble-like stone. The building emulates a medieval fortification, and is located in the center of this intensely developed suburb of Baltimore.

The Towson Academy is one of the last of the group of armories built in Maryland before 1950. The building cost \$75,000 and occupies the former site of the Smedley House, a popular summer resort of well-to-do Baltimore families at the turn of the century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Towson Academy

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street and Chesapeake Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Maryland 21204

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

CONTACT: Col. Raymond Clift

NAME

State of Maryland, Military Department

Telephone #: 728-3388 X 244

STREET & NUMBER

231 W. Hoffman Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21204**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Court House

Liber #: 913

Folio #: 175

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Towson Academy is a two story brick structure with full basement, faced with a smooth light-colored, marble-like stone veneer. Almost completely devoid of ornamentation, the armory presents a severe appearance on its front (Washington Street) facade, which faces west. Oriented to the west, the front facade reads from south to north corners as follows:

The first floor and basement form a section of seven 2/6 casement windows at first floor level. The southern half of the 14-bay drill hall is visible above the first floor section, its bays punctuated by 2/6 casement windows. The roof over the drill hall is a low-pitched gable.

The center block is a simple screen, containing a shallow entry hall in front of the drill hall. Four narrow 2/3 casement windows at first and second floor levels of the center block flank a high arch over wide double doors. The interior wall of the arch is plastered and painted. Four cement steps lead to a cement slab porch before the doorway. Four short pillars of the same stone as the facade veneer flank the steps, each topped with a trumpet shaped ornament of black metal. Iron railings connect the pillars and surround the porch. The front yard contains a flagpole and is pleasantly landscaped with shrubs and grass.

The building is symmetrical and identical on both sides of the center block.

The north (Chesapeake Avenue) facade features four windows (2/6 casement) in one story sections which flank the two-story entrance to the drill hall. The entry projects substantially from the side sections with double doors recessed slightly and surmounted by a large fanlight. A brief flight of cement steps with walls faced with veneer matching the facade lead to the street. At the extreme northeast corner is a driving ramp at ground level leading into a wide garage door.

The south facade, facing onto an alley, has 11 2/6 casement windows on the first floor. The drill hall wall above presents a blank face.

The rear of the building has been altered considerably with two story additions faced with an unmatched stone veneer.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1933

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1933 at a cost of \$75,000, the Towson Academy is among the last of the group of armories built in Maryland before 1950. It occupies the former site of the Smedley House, a hotel made popular as a summer rendezvous by fashionable Baltimore families around the turn of the century. The post-war building boom which radically changed the character of downtown Towson has caused a shift in scale favoring high-rise office tower development. The Towson Academy, together with the police station opposite (across Washington Street) and the courthouse diagonally opposite on the northwest corner of Washington Street and Chesapeake Avenue, contributes to the diminished nucleus of older buildings in the center of downtown Towson. The structure's simple sturdy lines blend successfully with the rich mix of building styles in the immediate vicinity.

Severe shortage of vehicle storage areas on the armory site and problems of congestion in the Towson area in general have no doubt played some part in the facility's diminished usefulness as an armory. While still in some minimal use by the National Guard, the building is apparently mainly utilized by community groups for meetings, and the drill hall is heavily used by young adults for dancing classes.

RECOMMENDATION: Discontinue military uses of the Towson Academy and study alternatives for community public gathering and/or recreational purposes.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Baltimore County, Liber 913 Folio 175
 Vertical files of the Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.600

Quadrangle name: Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet #1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susanne Moore, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

July, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle / Shaw House

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

TOWSON ARMORY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

In Baltimore County:

BEGINNING for the same at the corner formed by the intersection of the southernmost side of Chesapeake Avenue with the easternmost side of Washington Avenue running thence binding on the southernmost side of Chesapeake Avenue south twenty-six degrees fifty-three minutes east one hundred and seventy two feet thence parallel to Washington Avenue south thirteen degrees nineteen minutes west one hundred and fifty-five feet running thence for a line of division north seventy-six degrees fifty three minutes west one hundred and seventy-two feet to the easternmost side of Washington Avenue aforesaid running thence binding on the easternmost side of Washington Avenue north thirteen degrees nineteen minutes east one hundred and fifty-five feet to the place of beginning.

CHAIN OF TITLE

TOWSON ARMORY, BALTIMORE

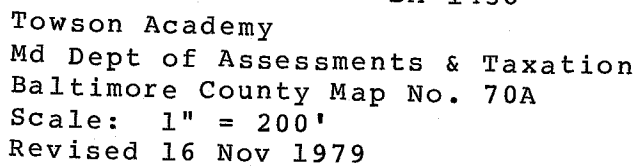
913/175

8/31/1933

Deed

From the Jeffersonian Publishing Company, Inc., to the State
of Maryland

Consideration: \$5





Towson Armory BA-1438
Baltimore County, Maryland
photo: Susanne Moore
neg loc: Md Hist Trust, Annapolis, Md
July 1980
Northwest corner
2/3



Towson Armory BA-1438
Baltimore County, Maryland
photo: Susanne Moore
neg loc: Md Hist Trust, Annapolis, Md
July 1980
West elevation
1/3



Towson Armory BA-1438
Baltimore County, Maryland
photo: Susanne Moore
neg loc: Md Hist Trust, Annapolis, Md
July 1980
Southeast corner
3/3